

## MOORE STREET INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTION,

JOHN OLIVER, Superintendent,

806 N. 4th, Street, Richmond, Va.

Richmond, Va. May 31-1887.

Mr Samuel May.

My Esteemed Friend

Your very kind letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> instant containing check for \$25- Twenty five dollars for the Moore St industrial school was properly received and I now sincerely thank you for this expression of favor and kindness in behalf of my work. I have just re-read your letter with careful attention and appreciation, and will tell you what has been my rule in the collection of money for this cause. I have undertaken to accomplish, And first of all it has been an oppressive burden to me, I love to work but the labor of asking other people for their money requires an amount of courage that does not quite fill my measure of it; and still many people say so for I have to some extent accomplished a good work. But what I had in my mind to say is this: I never have thought it was right-wise or proper to tax or request the old abolitionist to give of their means to promote and carry forward the Educational and Religious improvement of the Colored people of



the South; and any man who knows  
as much about what it cost them to  
carry on the emancipation movement  
as I do can not with very much  
equanimity of mind press them  
into that service and still it is a  
matter of fact as well as of history that  
they were the first and still are  
the foremost friends of that especial  
work. There are of course a large  
number of Antislavery people who are  
glad to do for such work when they  
know about it. After I had  
determined to undertake the work  
of building up the Moore St industrial  
institution here for colored  
children, I went to Boston and on  
June 21<sup>st</sup> 1875 called on Mr Garrison  
and stated my plans to him. He wrote  
a letter of commendation of both the  
work and myself in a book which  
I hope to make a part of the history  
of the school. After writing the letter he  
tendered me some money for the work  
saying it would help a little, but I re-  
fused it and gave as my reason for  
doing so just what I have stated above,  
but he said he would not feel willing  
to give me the letter for the object  
which he had written unless I would



take his donation, that the former  
 would not show good faith without the latter.  
 My wish in regard to Yourself has been this,  
 if you feel satisfied that the work I  
 have in hand is a thing that You can  
 approve of that a good word from You  
 to some friends who have the ability to  
 aid us and would take the time  
 and trouble to inquire into its needs  
 would be I think all the aid I  
 could consistently ask You to give  
 us. One week ago to day the City School  
 Board came to the school and  
 expressed itself as being well  
 pleased with what is being done  
 for industrial training of some  
 of the Colored Youth, but the Board  
 makes no proposition as yet to aid  
 the school, I shall not however  
<sup>warp</sup> our petition to the State for aid.  
 And again thanking You Mr May for  
 your kind assistance also the lady who  
 remembered us.

I am Your Obedient Servant

Sam Oliver



